

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 EB-07 SCA-01 H-02 INR-07

DLOS-04 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00

SAL-01 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 USIA-06 SAB-01 /080 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/PAN:EJNADEAU:LKB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFORPN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS/TUNA BOAT PROBLEM: MEDIA
COVERAGE

1. TV COVERAGE: ROGER MUDD, CBS-TV EVENING NEWS (5/6) --
THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA TODAY ALLOWED TWO AMERICAN TUNA
BOATS TO LEAVE THE U.S.-ADMINISTERED CANAL ZONE, WHERE THEY
HAD BEEN VIRTUAL PRISONERS SINCE LAST WEEK. THE BOATS HAD
SOUGHT SANCTUARY IN THE CANAL WHEN THEY WERE CAUGHT FISHING
IN TERRITORIAL WATERS CLAIMED BY PANAMA. THEY REPORTEDLY
HAD TO PAY A TOTAL OF ABOUT DOLS 40,000 IN LICENSE FEES IN
ORDER TO LEAVE.'

BRUCE MORTON, CBS-TV MORNING NEWS (5/7) -- WE ARE POUCH-
ING TRANSCRIPT OF A LONG AND VERY FAVORABLE ITEM ON THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. PRESS - WASHINGTON POST (5/6), CARRIES ARTICLE DATE

LINED BOGOTA CITING BOYD'S COMMENTS ABOUT GOV. REAGAN.
ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY REPORTING THAT PANAMA "IN A GESTURE OF
HARMONY AND GOOD WILL" HAS RELEASED TWO AMERICAN TUNA BOATS
BECAUSE IT WAS THEIR FIRST OFFENSE.

3. DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING -- THE FOLLOWING ARE

EXCERPTS: QUOTE. Q: HAS SECRETARY KISSINGER, TO YOUR
KNOWLEDGE, EVER MADE OPEN STATEMENTS WHICH IMPLY THAT A
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IS RESORTING TO
CHEAP ELECTIONEERING; IS AN EXTREME RIGHT REACTIONARY; AND
IS AN UNEDUCATED, WILLFULLY DECEPTIVE COWBOY?

A: I AM NOT AWARE THAT THE SECRETARY HAS EVER MADE ANY
STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT.

Q:WHAT DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT THINK ABOUT SENOR
BOYD'S MIXING ALL OF THESE EPITHETS WITH THE WORD "COWBOY"?

A: I WOULD NOT COMMENT ON A STATEMENT BY A FOREIGN
MINISTER OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

Q: HAVE WE EVER REPUDIATED A STATEMENT BY A FOREIGN
MINISTER OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

A: I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT. I DO NOT THINK WE ARE IN
THE BUSINESS OF REPUDIATING STATEMENTS MADE BY OTHER
FOREIGN LEADERS. END QUOTE.

FOLLOWING IS SHORTENED VERSION OF EXCHANGE ON TUNA BOATS:
QUOTE. Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT INTER-
VENED ON BEHALF OF THE TUNA FISH BOATS THAT WERE CAPTURED
BY THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK AND THEN RELEASED
WITHOUT FINE?

A: CAPTURED?

Q: WELL, WHATEVER -- APPREHENDED.

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A: WHAT BOATS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NOW?

Q: THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO TUNA FISH BOATS.

A: THERE WAS THE VOYAGER AND THE COLLIE. THEY WERE NOT --
I DO NOT THINK "CAPTURED" IS THE CORRECT WORD. THEY PAID
A LICENSE FEE. AND, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THEY LEFT PORT
YESTERDAY AND THE MATTER IS CLOSED.

Q: BUT DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT INTERVENE?

A: WE WERE AWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON. WE CERTAINLY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECT. END QUOTE.

4. CARTER POSITION -- GOVERNOR CARTER HAS MADE FURTHER REMARKS ON A NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA IN AN AP SPANISH WIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
STORY BY ARY MOLEON TODAY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: CARTER FACED THE QUESTION OF PANAMA WITH SUBTLETY, WHILE SAYING HE WOULD NOT GIVE UP COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE CANAL, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ELIMINATE THE CONCEPT OF PERPETUITY. IF PRESIDENT HE WOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE A NEW TREATY WHICH CONTAINED TWO LIMITATIONS. THE FIRST, NOT TO GIVE UP ACTUAL CONTROL OF THE CANAL SINCE HE BELIEVES THAT WE MUST RETAIN PRACTICAL CONTROL SO THAT THE CANAL CAN BE USED BY ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. THE OTHER ASPECT WOULD CEDE PART OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ZONE AND GIVE PANAMA A LARGER REMUNERATION FOR THE USE OF THE CANAL. ALSO, CARTER IS DISPOSED TO ELIMINATE THE WORD PERPETUITY FROM A NEW TREATY.

5. COMMENT: TUNA BOAT STORY SEEMS ABOUT DEAD. BOYD'S REMARKS MAY LINGER ON, AND THE CANAL AS A DOMESTIC-POLITICAL ISSUE STILL SEEMS DESTINED FOR A LONG LIFE. SISCO

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